AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

storing a data source of resource profiles associated with a plurality of resources, each resource being at least one of a plurality of resource types;

receiving, through a user interface, one or more first attributes of a resource desired by a user;

searching, using a processor, the data source of resource profiles for profiles having one or more of the first attributes;

providing, to the user, a hit-list of resources having the one or more first attributes;

receiving one or more second attributes of the resource through a refinement user interface;

searching, using a processor, the hit-list for resources having the one or more second attributes;

providing, to the user, a narrowed hit-list of resources having the one or more first and second attributes;

storing the narrowed hit-list as a collection of resources which is used for further actions or stored as a persistent collection;

automatically creating two or more segments of the narrowed hit-list by grouping the resources according to one of a plurality of attribute dimensions;

generating, for the user, statistics associated with the segments;

receiving a selection of two or more segments through the user interface; and

providing, to the user, a subset of the narrowed hit-list based on the selected two or more segments.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

displaying, in response to a user query, resources of the hit-list for user inspection;

maintaining a list of resources displayed for inspection by the user;

displaying a search history of search queries previously entered by a user, including a list of resources previously displayed;

allowing the user to back-navigate to a search within the search history by displaying the corresponding hit-list; and

displaying the list of inspected resources as the hit-list.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising defining the resource profiles by facets, attributes, and descriptions of the sources of the attributes.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, comprising generating a pattern-based user interface of a search tool from the resource profile.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at least one selected resource type;

providing a second narrowed hit-list of resources having the selected resource type from the narrowed hit-list;

storing the second narrowed hit-list as a second collection of resources for using for further actions or storing as a persistent collection.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, comprising storing the collection of resources dynamically or statically.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising aggregating the narrowed hit-list with an existing collection of resources.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the existing collection of resources comprises an historical listing of aggregated narrowed hit-lists.

11-13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving attributes comprises receiving a search template from the user.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the search template is defined by the user.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the search template comprises a multi-resource query that returns resources of more than one resource type.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the search template is auto-configured based on the resource type, attributes, or facets.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, comprising saving and re-using the search template.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, comprising using the hit-list to create a community, the community only including users sharing the first attribute.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising providing contact information in response to a user query to enable communication with resources in the community.

21-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium comprising instructions, tangibly recorded on the storage medium, for performing a method when executed by at least one processor, the method comprising:

storing a data source of resource profiles associated with a plurality of resources, each resource being at least one of a plurality of resource types;

receiving, through a user interface, one or more first attributes of a resource desired by a user;

searching the data source of resource profiles for profiles having one or more of the first attributes;

providing, to the user, a hit-list of resources having the one or more first attributes;

receiving one or more second attributes of the resource through a refinement user interface;

searching, using a processor, the hit-list for resources having the one or more second attributes;

providing, to the user, a narrowed hit-list of resources having the one or more first and second attributes;

storing the narrowed hit-list as a collection of resources which is used for further actions or stored as a persistent collection;

automatically creating two or more segments of the narrowed hit-list by grouping the resources according to one of a plurality of attribute dimensions;

generating, for the user, statistics associated with the segments;

receiving a selection of two or more segments through the user interface; and

providing, to the user, a subset of the narrowed hit-list based on the selected two or more segments.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 25, further comprising:

displaying, in response to a user query, resources of the hit-list for user inspection;

maintaining a list of resources displayed for inspection by the user;

displaying a search history of search queries previously entered by a user, including a list of resources previously displayed;

allowing the user to back-navigate to a search within the search history by displaying the corresponding hit-list; and

displaying the list of inspected resources as the hit-list.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 25, comprising defining the resource profiles by facets, attributes, and descriptions of the sources of the attributes.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 30, comprising generating a pattern-based user interface of a search tool from the resource profile.

33. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 27, further comprising:

receiving at least one selected resource type;

providing a second narrowed hit-list of resources having the selected resource type from the narrowed hit-list; and

storing the second narrowed hit-list as a second collection of resources for using for further actions or storing as a persistent collection.

34. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 25, further comprising aggregating the narrowed hit-list with an existing collection of resources.

35. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 34, wherein the existing collection of resources comprises an historical listing of aggregated narrowed hit-lists.

36. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 33, further comprising storing instructions operable to cause the one or more machines to perform operations comprising creating a layout of the segments of the narrowed hit-list by discrete values of an attribute dimension.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the narrowed hit-list is displayed based on the resource type.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the resource type is a person and the attributes include at least one of licenses received, papers published, languages spoken, demographic information, title in an organization, activities.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of selected resource types are received through the refinement user interface.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

combining the stored collection of resources with a second collection of resources to create a third collection of resources.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

storing the second collection of resources by selecting a subset of the second narrowed hit-list.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the collection of resources is stored under a name provided by a user.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the second narrowed hit-list includes heterogeneous resources.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the facets include at least one of collaboration, qualification, interests, and activities.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the narrowed hit-list of resources is provided from the hit-list.